

CROSS-AGENCY INTEGRATED DATA PROJECT

**P-16 Council
Action Item F
December 11, 2001**

Recommendation

The staff recommends that the P-16 Council endorse the cross-agency integrated data project undertaken by the Kentucky Department of Education, the Education Professional Standards Board, and the Council on Postsecondary Education.

Background

The 2000 General Assembly appropriated \$2.9 million to the budget of the EPSB to establish a data system to meet statutory reporting requirements. About half of the appropriation was designated to build new data systems or re-engineer existing data systems within the EPSB. The rest was to “provide the Kentucky Department of Education with capacity for data warehousing for student, financial, and related data needs as well as providing teacher quality data.”

A data warehouse transforms data into information that is useful to program managers, legislative researchers, policy makers, and other non-technical users, including the general public. To implement a data warehousing project effectively, the staffs of the department, the standards board, and the council recognized that they would need to revamp their existing data systems. Therefore, a data policy committee was formed, comprising the leadership and other representatives of all three agencies.

The data warehouse project, called MAX, includes data from individual agencies, including the following:

- MUNIS – The Local School District Financial Management System managed by the KDE.
- LEAD – The Local Educator Assignment Data managed by the EPSB.
- The Comprehensive Data Base managed by the council.

The data policy committee has developed the following principles to guide project implementation:

- All data is shareable with appropriate authority. (Personally identifiable information is still protected.)
- Data is widely available to multiple audiences and is as accessible and user friendly as possible.
- Data should be collected to support broad policy initiatives and management decisions.
- Data should be collected from the source one time.

- School-related data needs must be requested through the data policy committee.
- Data collection should be a by-product of normal business activity.
- Access to the system will be based on priorities for use.

The KDE, EPSB, and CPE will continue to collect data relevant to their respective missions but with the ability to link multiple data sources for analysis. For example, a user could collect a complete set of data about a student's high school course-taking patterns, the preparation level of their teachers, and postsecondary enrollment and performance. Currently this data set is unavailable. This information could reveal trends in student performance gaps between high school and college and help focus reforms to increase college completion.

The project is a multi-year venture, but much has been accomplished. Initial efforts focused on the data collected by the KDE and the EPSB. Five work groups have been established composed of KDE and EPSB staff. Each of the groups is working independently but report twice monthly to the data cross agency team.

The CPE supports the data warehouse project and will use data from its existing comprehensive data base to support the MAX project.

Committee members are developing a prototype of the entire MAX system and expect to have it available December 2001. The purpose of the prototype is to be able to demonstrate the benefits of data warehousing and to gain support for the project. The level of funding allocated to data collection and management is insufficient to fully develop and maintain integrated data access among the state education agencies. The support of the P-16 Council for this effort would greatly enhance the chances for additional funding.

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